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SANDLER'S RAZZIES RECORD {page 10}

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PAIGE OZAROSKI/METRO

Going once: $515M Going twice: $139M SOLD FOR $55M

Inquirer's fourth sale in six years just a fraction of the price in 2007 Papers' new owners face much more fractured media landscape {page 02}

▶ A group of local, rich and powerful investors bought the Inquirer and Daily News yesterday for nearly one-tenth the value a similar group of local investors bought the media company for in 2006.

News

Seven dead in shooting spree at Calif. college

- Gunman opens fire at Christian school in Oakland
- Suspect, a former nursing student, acted alone {page 05}

Dratch book not a Debbie Downer

'SNL' alum tells stories as funny as you'd expect, and with a lot of heart {page 12}

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Finally some stability?

- Fourth sale in six years could be end turmoil at Inquirer, Daily News for the near future
- Experts wonder if both price and owners are finally right
- Brief look at paper's recent past

PAIGE OZAROSKI/METRO

▶ The newspapers face much more competition for eyeballs than they did just 10 years ago.

Six years after local investors purchased the Philadelphia Inquirer and Daily News for more than $500 million and vowed a turnaround, the beleaguered papers were sold for $55 million yesterday.

A group of local businessmen led by former New Jersey Nets owner Lewis Katz and Cooper Health System chair George Norcross III will take over Philadelphia Media Network, the parent company of the papers and philly.com, from a collection of hedge funds. The group said it will retain publisher and CEO Greg Osberg and that no additional layoffs are expected.

"We believe that we can, with the various constituencies involved, make this a success," Norcross said.

Media experts across the country said the sale was a bargain, but that investors will have a hard time reversing years of red ink and declining revenues.

"I certainly wouldn't put up $55 million to buy the organization today," said Temple associate professor Chris Harper. "The Philadelphia newspapers talk about the high quality of journalism done by the news organization, but in recent months they've laid off dozens of reporters. They forced one reporter to remove a story about the sale, so there's been censorship. ... I don't think it's a well-run ship and hasn't been for some time."

Poynter Institute media analyst Rick Edmonds said digital news platforms have shaken the industry's foundations.

"The figures sort of speak for themselves that values have come way down and actually the market for acquisitions has improved some in the last nine months, maybe because the market is so [soft]," he said.

Name game

In addition to Katz and Norcross, the new ownership group includes:

- Cable TV magnate H.F. "Gerry" Lenfest, who will serve as board chair
- William Hankowsky, chairman and CEO of Liberty Property Trust and chairman of the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce
- Kris Singh, president and CEO of Holtec International, a nuclear energy technology company
- Joseph Buckelew, chair of Connor Strong and Buckelew.

Powerful hands are taking hold

In the wake of a story that was reportedly pulled about the potential sale, the new owners vowed to sign a pledge of non-interference with editorial content.

"This is America. Everybody is entitled to write what they feel is appropriate," managing partner Lewis Katz said.

"Everything we do is going to have to be as transparent as possible," Norcross later added.

But Temple associate professor Chris Harper, who worked 20 years as a reporter, said he is skeptical management can remain hands off.

"I don't see how they can possibly stay out of the editorial product and make things work," he said.

METRO/SDL

Turnover and over

Since 2006, the papers and philly.com have been sold four times.

- **June 2006:** The McClatchy Co. bought Knight Ridder and put up some of the least-profitable papers for sale.
- **June 2006:** Philadelphia Media Holdings, led by Brian Tierney, purchased the entities from McClatchy.
- **October 2010:** After the company filed for bankruptcy, a group of lenders purchased the company for $139 million.
- **Yesterday:** A group of local businessmen bought the papers from Philadelphia Media Network following secret negotiations.

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In the news

Punch your way out

The president and CEO of Pennsylvania's largest health insurer has been fired following charges that he assaulted his mistress' estranged husband, the company announced Sunday. Highmark Inc.'s board of directors made the decision to fire Kenneth Melani after a special meeting. Melani had been on unpaid leave since trading punches March 25 with Mark Myler.

In the news

Nearly winners

Two tickets worth $250,000 each in Friday's Mega Millions drawing were sold in Philadelphia. Philly's News Stand in University City and Wister Beer Distributor in Germantown will receive a $500 bonus for selling the winning ticket. Each ticket correctly matched all five white balls, 02-04-23-38-46, but not the yellow Mega Ball 23.

Satellite subscribers no longer get any Phillies

PHILADELPHIA. DirecTV customers have been left in further the dark after the satellite provider failed to reach an agreement with the Tribune Company before its April 1 contract expiration, causing the broadcasters to pull their channels over the weekend, according to a report from Consumerist.com.

The slight is especially sore for Phillies fans, who now face a total baseball blackout. DirecTV customers can no longer watch the few baseball games on WPHL 17 they could access prior to this weekend. Neither DirecTV nor Dish Network carry Comcast SportsNet, which broadcasts the lion's share of Phillies games.

METRO/AW

GETTY IMAGES

'Pink slime' cited as cause in area bankruptcy

KING OF PRUSSIA. A food company here that makes the beef filler known as "pink slime" filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy today, in part blaming the recent media outcry over the processed meat product, The Associated Press reported.

AFA Foods processes more than 500 million pounds of ground beef products each year for retailers like Wal-Mart, Safeway and BJ's Wholesale Club and fast food chains including Burger King and Wendy's. A spokesman for the company told the AP that, while the company does not rely on "pink slime," the controversy raised by the term has reduced the demand for all ground beef products in the already competitive industry.

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Drexel's brainy, first-ever Miss Philly winner

This year's Miss Philadelphia holds a special significance for the pageant's executive director, U.S. Army Col. Kevin McAleese.

"Having the current Miss Philadelphia is a joy because I've been to Iraq and Bosnia and I have the disease," he said. The war veteran is referring to traumatic brain injury, a cause that this year's winner, 20-year-old Drexel University junior Lauren Bilski, has identified as her platform.

"I had a student that became sick with encephalitis in one of my dance classes," said Bilski, a dance and physical therapy major who has been teaching ballet and creative movement to children since the age of 14. "She was such an inspiration to me."

The experience spurred Bilski to become involved with Camp Cranium, a one-week camp for children with brain injuries where she has been a counselor for two years.

Rather than first competing in pageants and seeking a cause to throw her weight behind as an afterthought, Bilski's family said that advocacy is what led the pageant's first-ever Drexel winner to compete in the first place. "She was a competitive dancer since very young — she began at the age of three — so she was into that world some," said her mother, Sharon Bilski. "But she's very passionate about the platform and thought through Miss Philadelphia she could do something with it."

ALEX WIGGLESWORTH
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PAIGE OZAROSKI/METRO

▶ Bilski is majoring in dance and physical therapy at Drexel.

Tough advocate

Advocating for victims of traumatic brain injury has its difficulties.

"Being that my platform is dealing with medical things, I wanted to go in understanding health care. I had to brush up on the Supreme Court debates and read all the transcripts — that was the toughest part of preparing for the pageant," Bilski said.

METRO/AW

News in brief

Corbett seeks to run lotto privately

PENNSYLVANIA. Gov. Tom Corbett is considering hiring a business to run its state lottery, the sixth-largest by revenue in the U.S., to raise more money to aid its aging population.

$309

Pennsylvanians' spending on lottery tickets, or 0.59 percent of personal income, ranking the state at eighth most in the nation.

"Our state's fast-growing population of older adults means time is not on our side, and we need to maximize funding for senior programs and services in a way that does not ask taxpayers to dig any deeper into their pockets," Corbett said yesterday. **BLOOMBERG**

Outside the box idea for affordable housing in Philly

CITY HALL. Councilman Jim Kenney is working on an interesting way to combat the city's affordable housing crisis: shipping containers.

You take two containers, take the middle wall out, bolt them together and you can stack them as high as six high," he said to the Office of Housing and Community Development Monday during a City Council budget hearing.

Kenney, in conjunction with the Building Trades Council, has developed a prototype for the sustainable, low-cost housing. METRO/AW

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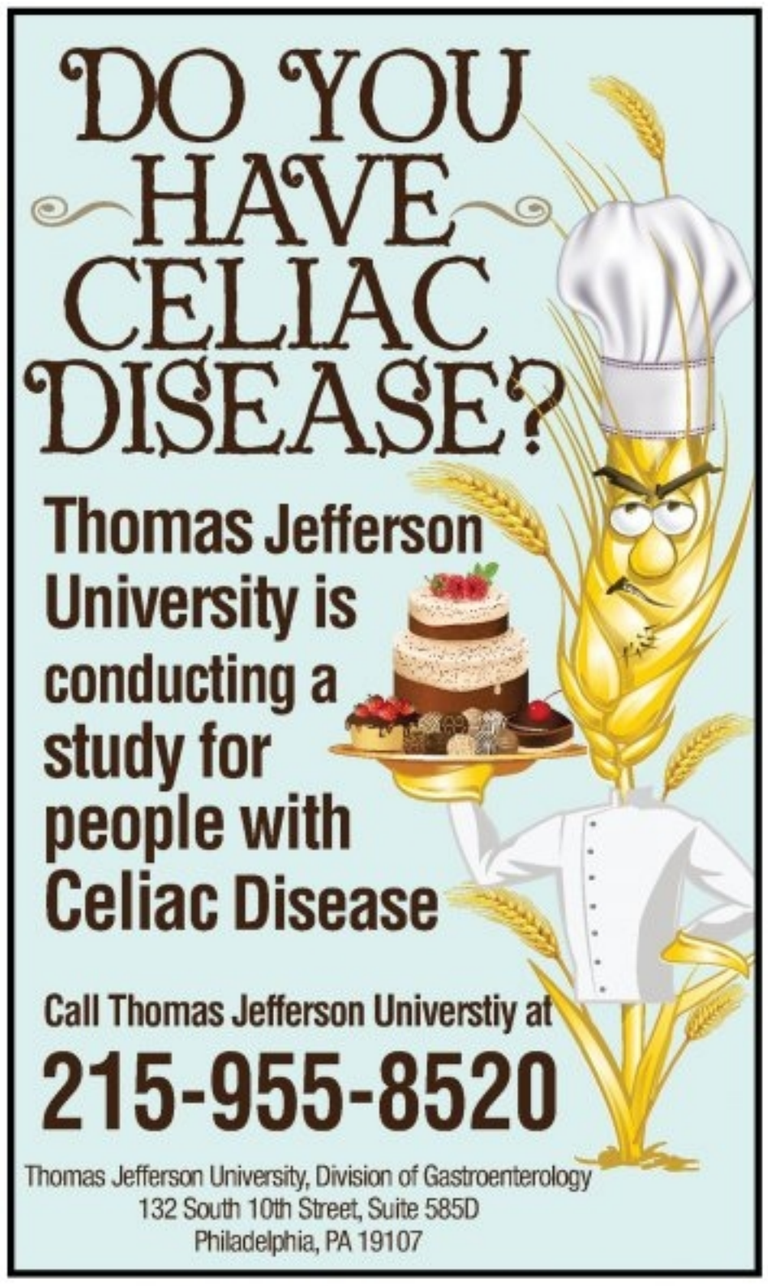
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Seven killed in shooting at Oakland college

A gunman opened fire at a private Christian college in California yesterday, killing at least seven people and wounding three others after telling former classmates to "get in line ... I'm going to kill you all."

A suspect in what was the deadliest U.S. school shooting in five years was later arrested at a shopping mall several miles away from the scene of the shooting at Oakland's Oikos University, which appears to cater largely to the area's Korean community.

The school's founder, Pastor Jong Kim, told the Oakland Tribune newspaper that the gunman had been a nursing student there, but was no longer enrolled.

Authorities did not immediately offer a motive for the rampage, but said they believed the gunman had acted alone.

Witnesses said he entered a reception area of the college at mid-morning and opened fire before walking into one of two classes in session and spraying the room with bullets.

Paul Singh, whose 19-year-old sister Devinder Kaur was shot in the arm during Monday's rampage, told Reuters that according to his sister, the man was a former student at the college who showed up to class for the first time in four months.

"'Get in line and I'm going to kill you all,' is what he said this morning, my sister told me. They thought he was joking at first,'" Singh said.

REUTERS

JED JACOBSOHN/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Sheriff coroner vans arrive at Oikos University after seven people were killed on campus in Oakland, Calif.

Supreme Court upholds jailhouse strip searches

WASHINGTON. The Supreme Court yesterday upheld strip searches of new jail inmates, even those arrested for minor traffic offenses, ruling that security concerns outweigh personal privacy rights.

By a 5-4 vote, splitting along conservative-liberal ideological lines, the high court rejected the argument that the searches violated privacy rights and cited concerns by jailers about a suspect hiding drugs, weapons or other contraband.

14M Number of Americans who spend time in jail or prison every year, including an estimated 700,000 in jail for minor offenses.

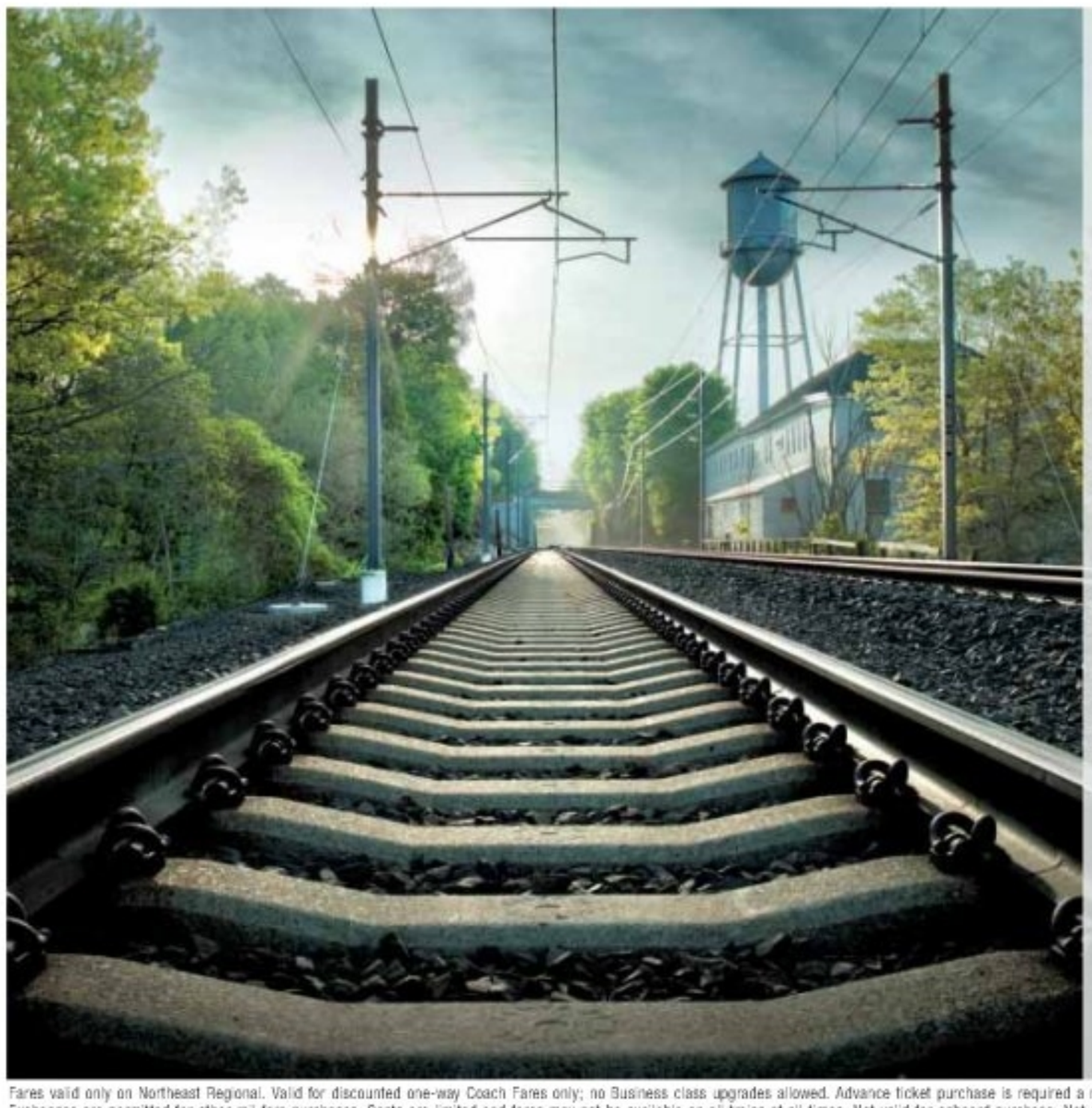
In the opinion for the court's conservative majority, Justice Anthony Kennedy concluded the jail search procedures "struck a reasonable balance" between inmate privacy and the needs of the institution. **REUTERS**

Suu Kyi hails 'triumph of the people' in vote

YANGON, MYANMAR. Nobel Peace laureate Aung San Suu Kyi's party won a landslide in an election for vacant parliamentary seats, a victory she hailed yesterday as a "triumph of the people" after decades of military dictatorship.

Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy party won 40 of the 45 available seats in Sunday's poll, the Election Commission announced on state television, dealing a crushing blow to a ruling party created by the former military junta that kept her locked her up for 15 years.

REUTERS



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They are women — hear them vote

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In the end it may not matter whether, as Democrats would have us all believe, Republicans truly are waging a "War on Women" through recent attacks on contraception, sexual liberation and other reproductive health issues. Because one important voting bloc seems to have reached a telling consensus on this issue: the ladies.

According to a new USA Today/Gallup poll of 12 battleground states, Obama currently leads Romney by 18 points among women voters. The president actually trails his likely election foe by 1 point among men, but women more than make up for that slight gap: All told, Obama leads Romney by nine points, 51 to 42 percent, in key swing states.

The trend is hardly new, of course. Bill Clinton won the presidency 16 points up among women in 1996, despite trailing Bob Dole by 1 point among men. In 2000, the party sex gap hit 22 points; in 2004, 14; and in 2008, 12.

So there is some evidence to suggest that the voter disparity is just a fact of electoral life. Then again, Obama was losing to Romney in those same states in an early February poll conducted by the same organization. Has anything happened since that month that could perhaps explain the massive GOP exodus?

Let's see. The opening salvo of the so-called war was fired on Feb. 2: the now-infamous Komen flap, in which it was revealed that conservative execs of the women's health charity were conspiring to distance the organization from health services (and yes, abortion) provider Planned Parenthood. Shortly thereafter came loud Republican outrage to the Obama administration's individual mandate, specifically the requirement for religiously-affiliated institutions to provide birth control services via employer health plans; party leaders did a poor job of framing this as an issue of religious liberty rather than patriarchal dominance. The culture battle reached catastrophic dimensions mid-month, however, after Rush Limbaugh criticized activist Susan Fluke as a slut and worse over her attempt to testify before an otherwise all-male panel of religious leaders opposed to the birth control measure.

There's more. Rick Santorum sugar daddy Foster Freiss elevated the discussion by suggesting women simply place aspirin between their knees rather than rely on pregnancy-preventing pharmaceuticals. And who can forget the actual laws sponsored by Republican politicians in what could too easily be taken for a nationwide assault on the fairer sex: From multiple attempts to redefine rape and restrict abortion rights; to party-wide calls for cuts to government aid for those including low-income moms; and even, in South Dakota, a bill that could have decriminalized murdering abortion doctors.

It probably doesn't help that a bomb was detonated this past Sunday at a Wisconsin Planned Parenthood. But then, how much more help could conservatives — because let's be honest, this probably wasn't an act of Occupy Wall Street — give to Democrats this election season, a campaign that many thought would be an easy win for the opposition party? Perhaps their next big idea involves repeal of the 19th Amendment.

Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author, or any opinions expressed on its pages.

2 to 1

Obama has twice the support of women under 50 when compared with Romney, according to the latest poll on the issue.

10-15

According to Pew, men are more individualistic than women by some 15 percentage points, meaning women tend to favor social programs that Republicans oppose.

RICHARD ELLIS/GETTY IMAGES

▶ South Carolina Gov. and notable Republican woman Nikki Haley is as confident as ever that her party will triumph in November. "If we look at the record of President Obama," she said yesterday, "it would be hard to see how [he] does win."

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Learning from the pros at Temple

- 76ers CEO Adam Aron spoke with students about his current gig and career in the hospitality industry
- He's not the only high-profile speaker at the university

Philadelphia 76ers CEO Adam Aron is known for engaging with fans via social media, so it's not too surprising that a tweet led to his presentation as an Executive in Residence at Temple's School of Tourism and Hospitality Management.

Aron responded to a Temple student's tweet last November by saying that he'd love an invitation if it came from a faculty member. Gregory DeShields of the School of Tourism and Fox School of Business then tweeted Aron to find out how to get him involved.

Big names on campus

Temple students get to meet front-office personnel for other Philly teams as well. Howie Rosenbaum, the general manager of the Eagles — the youngest GM in the NFL — spoke to School of Tourism and Hospitality Management students in November. Bill Giles, chairman of the Phillies, will be speaking on April 4.

Sporty studies

The school offers both bachelor's and master's degrees in sports and recreation management.

In his March 22 appearance, Aron described his career in the tourism industry. Highlights included stints at Pan Am, the Hyatt Hotel, United Airlines, Norwegian Cruise Line and Vail Resorts in Colorado. Aron became CEO of the 76ers five months ago, after the team was acquired by a new group of owners that includes Philly native Will Smith. He has been active in promoting the team through game night entertainment and cutting ticket prices.

When a student asked how much more intensely Aron watches games now, compared to when he was a kid in Abington, Aron replied, "Two hundred and eighty million times more intensely" — a reference to the $280 million the new owners paid for the team.

JUDY WEIGHTMAN
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GETTY IMAGES

▶ "Running a professional NBA team is just a blast," Aron told the students.

In brief

$10K gift supports Saint Joseph's anti-violence work

The Richard Johnson Center for Anti-Violence at Saint Joseph's University has received an anonymous $10,000 gift to support its work combating violence among urban youth.

The money will help with several upcoming projects, including the second annual "Be the Solution" summit for 100 local youth on April 21, and a Phlash Mob for Peace on April 28.

The Center, founded in 2001, is named after Richard Johnson, a 2005 graduate of St. Joseph's Prep who had received a full scholarship to attend the university. Johnson was shot down on a South Philly street after an argument with another teen in July of 2005.

Watson Fellowships to Haverford seniors

Two Haverford College seniors have won Watson Fellowships for 2012-2013. The fellowships are given to newly graduated college students for independent exploration and international travel. Maya Barlev, an astrophysics major, will be working on a project on how children around the world view the universe. She will travel to Chile, New Zealand, South Africa and Sri Lanka.

Philosophy major Erin Islo will also be working with children's issues: the treatment of orphans in different cultures. She will travel to Ecuador, Germany, Kazakhstan and Uganda.

Eastern's lacrosse team lends a hand at animal shelter

Members of the men's lacrosse team from Eastern University volunteered at a small-animal shelter during their spring break.

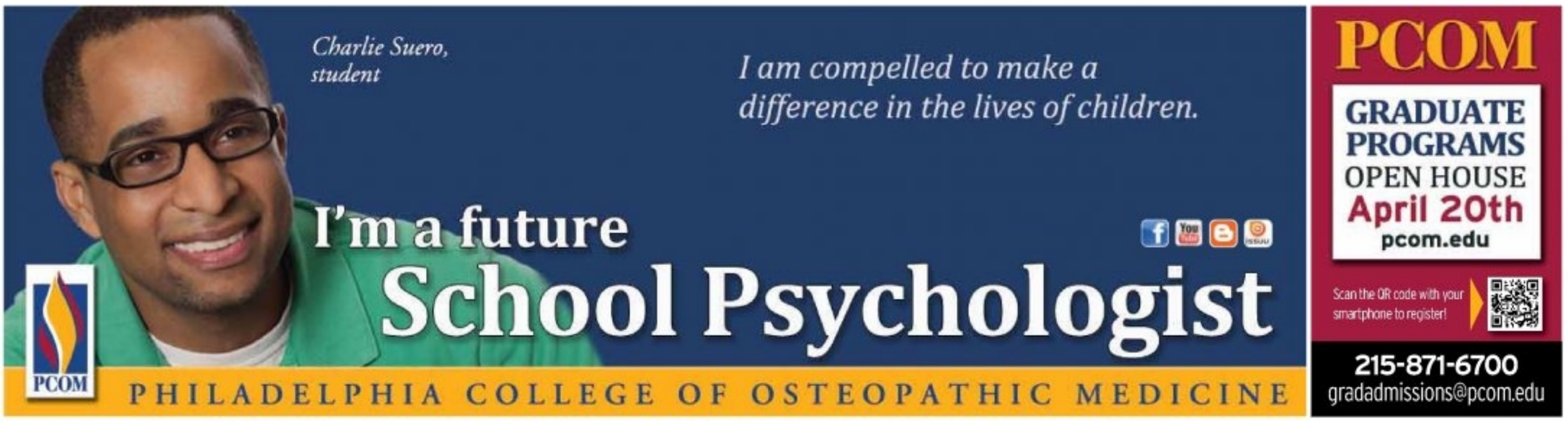
They worked as a team to help with renovations and maintenance around the grounds of Radnor's Francisvale Home for Smaller Animals, and also to help take care of the animals. The home is a nonprofit, no-kill shelter that provides care until permanent homes can be found.

Prestigious post for Penn State librarian

Alexia Hudson, a reference and instruction librarian at Penn State Abington, has been elected to a three-year term on the executive board of the American Library Association, one of the largest professional organizations in the country. "I am passionate about the connection between information literacy and workplace performance with an emphasis on emerging technologies," she said.

Last summer, Hudson was one of 30 people invited to the White House to live-tweet questions and comments during a session with President Obama.

JUDY WEIGHTMAN



Don't speak: Report ranks Colleges for Free Speech' in

▶ Harvard University hosted an Occupy tent village, but landed on the FIRE list for asking students to sign a "morality pledge" and, through their licensing office, prohibiting a T-shirt that suggested the school's dropouts — namely, Bill Gates and Mark Zuckerberg — were better off than its grads.

GETTY IMAGES

Philadelphia-based nonprofit FIRE has put 12 schools on notice for what it perceives as violations of free speech on campus

Last week, the Foundation For Individual Rights in Education released its second-annual "Worst Colleges for Free Speech" list. The Philadelphia-based nonprofit named 12 U.S. colleges and universities that, in its view, continue to impose limits on student speech — even after intense pressure from FIRE and others.

FIRE president Greg Lukianoff released the list on his Huffington Post blog.

Topping the dozen was the University of Cincinnati, due to a pending civil rights lawsuit filed against them by Young Americans for Liberty, a Ron Paul-inspired activist group. In February, the officially sanctioned student organization was limited to a small "free speech zone" in which to gather signatures for a law that would disallow required union membership in any Ohio workplace. The group was also instructed to file an official request for the zone two-weeks

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2012's 'Worst the country

Top offenders

These are the "12 Worst Colleges for Free Speech in 2012," according to the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE).

1. University of Cincinnati
2. Syracuse University
3. Widener University
4. Harvard University
5. Yale University
6. St. Augustine's College
7. Michigan State University
8. Colorado College
9. Johns Hopkins University
10. Tufts University
11. Bucknell University
12. Brandeis University

in advance.

"Free speech zones are basically quarantining speech to an area where maybe the police can watch them or they can't really be seen," says Robert Shibley, senior vice president of FIRE. "It's understandable that people in power wouldn't want to have protesters all over the place, but sometimes that's the nature of living in a free society. And universities should be the beacons of freedom in a free society."

Greg Hand, UC's associate vice president for public relations, says the zone was established to strike a delicate balance between the rights of outside evangelizing ministers and students that felt harassed by them. Hand also says it has not been imposed on other groups, such as the Occupy movement and anti-abortion protesters.

He did not provide an explanation as to why YAL was limited to that space.

"There's a lawsuit going on. There's a lot of 'who shot John' about this particular case. In practice, you either ask for the space or you describe a situation that can only be accommodated in that space," says Hand. "There are certain criteria you have to meet to be assigned to that zone, and I don't know which button was pushed."

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THE WORD

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Octomom: Outta money, not children

The Octomom: Single-handedly bankrupting the state of California?

Considering she doesn't have a job, husband or any way to support her 14 children, it's slightly impressive that **Nadya Suleman** held out this long. But no more: The Octomom is now on welfare and is receiving death threats because of it.

She tells TMZ.com that the $2,000 a month she gets from the state of California in food stamps is to avoid "becoming totally destitute." According to TMZ, she's been receiving death threats since the welfare news broke — but she feels people should be directing their anger toward those "who are abusing the system and not at her."

True. But what about stupid people who abuse fertility drugs to have way more children they — and society — can possibly support in a misguided attempt at fame? What do we direct that anger toward?

Sandler

Sandler is a big winner at losing

Adam Sandler has a new record, but it's probably not one he wants to brag about. The actor's gender-bender comedy "Jack and Jill" — in which he played male and female twins — earned 10 of the 12 Razzies for which it was nominated over the weekend. The Razzies — or Golden Raspberries — celebrate the worst in film each year. "It's not really a clean sweep," Razzies founder John Wilson tells People magazine. "So it will go into the record books with an asterisk." The previous record-holder for most wins was Lindsay Lohan's 2006 film "I Know Who Killed Me." Some of the trophies "Jack and Jill" earned include worst picture, both worst actor and actress for Sandler, worst supporting actress for **David Spade** (who also donned drag) and worst supporting actor for **Al Pacino**.

Then again, "Jack and Jill" made $142,251,636 against its $79 million budget — so don't feel too bad for Sandler. He's crying all the way to the bank.

The feed ...

Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

Today, Elizabeth Banks is experiencing technical difficulties, Edgar Wright is questioning his sources, Paris Hilton has eclectic tastes and Albert Brooks is trying to be sensitive.

@ElizabethBanks: Autocorrect just changed Thurs to Thugs three times. I forgot Thugs was a word. Probably because it's not 1956.

@edgarwright: A simple internet rule is this: don't get your news from film sites that either don't watch films or seem to hate them all equally.

@ParisHilton: In bed trying to figure out which movie to watch. Deciding between The Tree of Life, Horrible Bosses, The Grey & Tangled. Thoughts?

@AlbertBrooks: Have a pretty funny joke about Lincoln but I think it's too soon.

Banks

Talking points

Levine and girlfriend split up

Adam Levine and model **Anne Vyalitsyna** have broken up, according to Hollyscoop. The very high-profile couple was previously seen walking the Victoria's Secret runway hand-in-hand and posing nude for Vogue Russia together last November, but apparently all wasn't well at home, as Levine and Vyalitsyna "got into a big fight in January" that nearly ended the relationship, a source says.

Levine and Vyalitsyna

"Adam and I have decided to separate in an amicable and supportive manner," Vyalitsyna says in a statement confirming the split. "We still love and respect each other as friends, I wish him all the best." The pair met in 2010 at a Sport Illustrated swimsuit issue launch event where Maroon 5 was also performing.

It's a fourth daughter for Willis

Bruce Willis and **Emma Heming** welcomed a baby girl, **Mabel Ray**, over the weekend, according to Entertainment Tonight. The new parents are "overjoyed" about the arrival, according to their reps. Mabel weighed in at 9 pounds, 1 ounce. This is the first child for the couple, who tied the knot in 2009. Willis has three daughters with ex-wife **Demi Moore**.

Kutcher to star in Jobs biopic

"Two and a Half Men" star **Ashton Kutcher** knows how he's spending his summer vacation: playing tech guru **Steve Jobs** in a film about the life of the late Apple mogul, according to Variety. The film, to be directed by **Joshua Michael Stern**, will follow Jobs' rise to power. Of course, there's some competition, as Sony Pictures is developing a rival Jobs biopic, though there's no word on who will play the computer pioneer in that film.

Efron: 'I'm just Zac'

Despite popular opinion to the contrary, **Zac Efron** doesn't consider himself a heartthrob. "I can't explain to you what it's like to be a heartthrob, [because] I don't think I am a heartthrob," Efron says in an interview with CBS Sunday Morning. "I hate [that word]. I hate it. It follows you around, but you don't deserve it. It's like, 'Why?' I'm just me. I'm just Zac. Just Zac."

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A roundup from Sunday's Academy of Country Music Awards

1. The rock band **KISS** (um, this was the Country Music Awards, right?) presented the Vocal Group of the Year award to **Lady Antebellum**.

2. Nicole Kidman and **Faith Hill** were pretty seatmates at the CMA's.

3. Marc Anthony and new girlfriend **Shannon de Lima** were in the audience at the CMAs, which were held at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas.

4. Blake Shelton and **Lionel Richie** performed. It was a break out night for Richie, whose country duets album, "Tuskeegee," features some of country music's biggest names, including **Shania Twain**, **Kenny Chesney** and **Taylor Swift**.

5. Kenny Chesney, a cowboy hat-wearing **Ashton Kutcher** and **Brad Paisley** joked around in the audience.

6. Carrie Underwood looked glam in a purple gown. The star started off the program with her new hit "Good Girl."

7. Taylor Swift accepted her second consecutive Entertainer of the Year award to cap off Sunday night's ceremony.

1, 3: KEVIN WINTER/ACMA2012/GETTY IMAGES FOR ACM
2, 4, 5, 6, 7: CHRISTOPHER POLE/ECA2012/GETTY IMAGES FOR ECA

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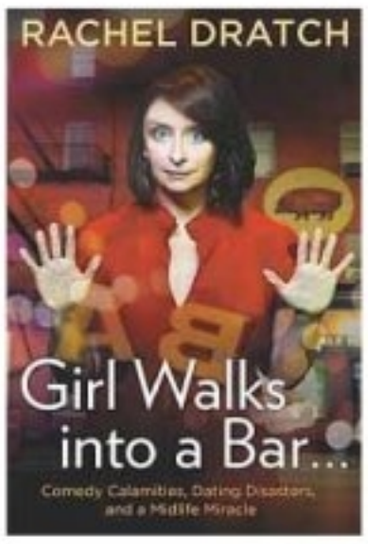
To 'SNL' and back

Ex-cast member Rachel Dratch releases a memoir It's more than the behind-the-scenes 'Saturday Night Live' tell-all you might be expecting

You may know Rachel Dratch as "Debbie Downer" from her stint on "Saturday Night Live" or for her cameos on "30 Rock," but the 46-year-old comedian has more stories to tell than the standard ex-"SNL"-er's behind-the-scenes yarns.

"It all started because I wasn't getting acting jobs, basically," Dratch says dryly when asked about how she began to write her memoir, "Girl Walks Into a Bar." The actress, having parted with "SNL" in 2006 after seven years, had first decided to write a book about her dating experiences in New York City, having been courted by all manner of strange men — including one particular gem who had an interest in consuming horse meat. But then something unexpected happened.



"There was this crazy twist that happened in my life and I thought maybe I should start writing about this," she says. Dratch, at 43 years old, after having given up on the idea of being married with kids someday, unexpectedly got pregnant and decided to make that "midlife miracle," as she calls it, the centerpiece of her book.

"I feel a little exposed about the fact that people are going to read so much about me," she says. "But, I guess it's the kind of thing that I like to read, so I was just trying to be true as a, whatever, dare I say, artist. I didn't want to gloss over things. The whole thing about not having kids is those baby showers. I think so many women feel the way that I talk about in the book — I think there's lots of disappointment in these women's hearts."

While Dratch does explore some of these sensitive issues, she's not short on the dish when it comes to her own love life and her time on "Saturday Night Live," even if she is loath to admit that her unique perspective on that legendary TV show is a fascinating component to the book.

"I don't even really want to talk about 'SNL' just because, to me, so many people have described their experience there," she says. "When I was there, it was pretty supportive. It's very competitive to get your scene on, but there wasn't a lot of ugliness or sabotage. I wasn't hiding the big story where there was backstabbing. It's such highs and such lows there. Only people that have been there understand what it's like to get your scene cut at 11 p.m. before you're going on. But then on the flip side, it's the pinnacle of sketch comedy."

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Rachel on dating in the city:

"In Europe, I'm a total hottie, not that I spend much time in Europe. Whenever I leave New York [or L.A., I] meet a lot of normal guys. There's a lot more normal guys not in these big cities where everyone moves there to be the best thing. Everyone moves there to be the best in their careers and that includes dating the hottest chick. I don't know, it just seems like there's lots of trading up and looking around in L.A. and New York."

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A comeback Philly can get behind

The protagonists of Andrew Bonazelli's latest novel are drunk, violent, out-of-work action stars

▶ Packaged in Van Damme- and Seagal-inspired artwork created by a member of grindcore band Graf Orlock, the book also comes with a fierce soundtrack for which many of Bonazelli's favorite metal bands (including Atlas Moth, Wolvhammer and Liberteer) contributed original songs or versions of theme songs from classic action films.

By Andrew Bonazelli

When Philadelphian Andrew Bonazelli isn't working as the managing editor for music magazines Decibel and Magnet, or as the copy editor for urban-environmentalism magazine Grid, he spends his time contemplating the oft-overlooked charms of action movie stars. "The first six Steven Seagal and the first seven or so Jean-Claude Van Damme movies should have Criterion Collection boxes," says Bonazelli. "I've always found both of their personas — the elocution, the attire, the signature moves — mind-blowingly surreal."

In fact, Bonazelli loves Seagal and Van Damme so much that the two protagonists in his new book, "DTV" — as in, "direct-to-video" — are loosely based on them.

In his fourth book, Bonazelli tells the story of two washed-up, out-of-work fortysomething action stars who spend their days chugging cheap beer, snorting cocaine and getting into fistfights until a new script finally lands on their doorsteps. A powerful friendship develops between the men as they desperately search for something, anything, to do now that their bodies are sagging and fresh-faced 20-year-olds dominate the action movie market.

"Everyone in Philly knows the overriding theme to Rocky Balboa," says Bonazelli. "Screw getting older and keep doing your thing until you can't do it anymore. A big impetus for this novel is exploring whether or not your 'thing' sucked in the first place and is even worth revisiting."

ELLIOTT SHARP
letters@metro.us

If you go

Bonazelli debuts the book at Thursday night's release party (7 p.m. to 10 p.m.) at 12 Steps Down (831 Christian St.), where the winner of an arm-wrestling competition will go home with a copy of "DTV."

70% of Metro readers have taken a domestic air round trip in the past year.
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mystyle

American classics for all at J.Crew

For years, J.Crew was known as the company that produced the affordably priced clothes that everyone coveted, but only Americans could actually buy. Thanks to first lady Michelle Obama, though, the rest of the world was introduced to the brand's colorful, upbeat cardigans and pencil skirts that sat just to the left of classic — they were trend-conscious enough without the risk of being out of style six months later. And then there's Jenna Lyons, the president and executive creative director of J.Crew, whose fashion celebrity seems to grow by the day. Her offbeat personal style and knack for seamlessly mixing high and low has become inextricably linked with the brand, not to mention a fashion blogger obsession. We talk to Lyons about the company's recent decision to go global (they now ship to 107 countries) after only being available in the U.S. for nearly 30 years.

What makes now the right time to expand internationally?

We were finding that a lot of customers were calling our New York store and asking for things to be shipped overseas. We had the U.S. expansion that we were working on and we were in the process of launching a few really big projects that we needed to have all hands on deck for first. We wanted to do it right.

The brand is much more popular with fashion insiders than it was years ago. For example, Manolo Blahnik collaborated with you on your fall '12 show and you're now selling Comme des Garcons Play. What led to the change?

We've really tried to develop a clear visual over the last five years that's a tad bit more fashion. We can take someone like Fenton-Fallon and put her in our catalog and introduce her brand to this massive audience. Working with the CFDA has also been a big help. People began to have a different trust level with us. People [in fashion] began to view us as being on the inside rather than outside.

Your fall '12 show famously featured a model who could be your twin. Did you guys seek her out?

It's funny because she was being used for Madewell and for one shoot they put glasses on her. The person doing the casting came up to me and said, "You know this girl looks like you." But I don't think so. The next day a blog asked, "Is Jenna Lyons trying to make Madewell like herself?" Not in a million years would I do that! Can you imagine the narcissism? Plus, she's like 20 years younger than I am. But we brought her in for the J.Crew show because we like her. She's a smart girl.

Q&A

People associate the look of J.Crew with you. Do you feel an increasing pressure when getting dressed for the day?

I was in London last week and this woman said, "Excuse me, are you Jenna Lyons?" And it was so great to have this direct connection with a new audience. But if anything, I feel an interesting amount of pressure to not do anything bizarre in public now.

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▶ Lyons wears the Ludlow two-button suit jacket and classic suit pant in Italian wool, $375 and $195 respectively, from www.jcrew.com.

The look

Four J.Crew looks that Jenna Lyons will be living in this spring

Boy shirt, $70

Leather placket tunic, $275; all looks available at www.jcrew.com

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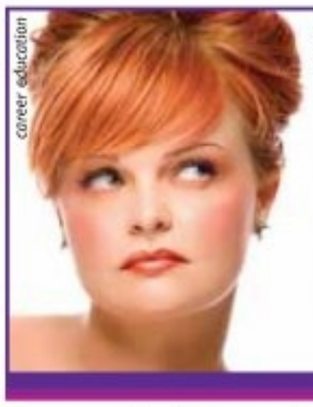

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mywellbeing

4 Eye-catching baby bottles

For baby

1 Comotomo 150 ml: $16, 250 ml: $17, www.comotomo.com
For the design-conscious baby and mama, meet the Comotomo bottle, a brand that was a recipient of the 2010 IF Product Design Award. Your baby will love the soft, skin-like material of the bottle, which promises to help the little one transition from breast to bottle, and the bottle's unique air-flow system allows babies to get more milk and less air. Approved by the FDA and BPA-free, Comotomo's wide-mouth design also makes the bottles easy to clean (also helpful: the fact they can go into the dishwasher — perfect for busy moms everywhere).

2 The Ba Baby Bottle Holder, $15, www.newinnovashun.com
Baby bottles are great for feeding your baby, but the design leaves a lot to be desired when it comes time for your baby to self-feed. The Ba Baby Bottle Holder is a circle-like encasement for your favorite baby bottle that helps your munchkin feed solo — sometimes as early as three months. The ball-design of the Ba is FDA-approved silicone, BPA-free and features an array of fun colors to get your baby gripping away.

3 Mimijumi "Very Hungry" baby bottle (8 oz.), $15; "Not So Hungry" baby bottle (4 oz.), $14, www.thenewmomshop.com
The Mimijumi "Very Hungry" and "Not So Hungry" baby bottles also get high marks for design and functionality. Designed with input from mothers, doctors and lactation experts, the BPA-free Mimijumi (which features a nipple that is breast-like in appearance and texture to help with latching) was conceived as a stylish complement to breast-feeding.

Transition time:

Munchkin's Click Lock spill-proof cups

$3-$8, www.munchkin.com
Before you know it, your baby will be a toddler and you'll need some bottle-like toddler cups for when it's time to make the transition. That's where Munchkin's new Click Lock spill-proof cups come in. Available in an array of colors and designs (trainer, sippy, straw, flip-straw and big-kid cups), they all feature an advanced leak-preventing design and are BPA-free.

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2010-0195 METRO (1/12)

Letters

letters@metro.us

It comes down to faith: Prayer works

RE: "PRAYER AS HEALTH CARE? GOOD LUCK": Robert La Rosa disparages prayer as health care. Yet there is no evidence that prayer does not help those who are ill, even if only psychologically. In fact, after I've seen my doctor I often pray that his diagnosis is correct. **ADELAIDE VERPONI, VIA E-MAIL**

It is just a question of faith. Did the guy in the Bible, whom Peter cut the ear off of, go to an emergency room? No, Jesus fixed it with nobody's help. And Jesus said we'll do more if we have enough faith. I also believe that all knowledge come from God, so why not have health care? But health care and belief in prayers can complete each other; it doesn't have to be one or the other. **MICHELLE LAMOTHE, VIA E-MAIL**

Why do we hate each other? It's simple

As two persons — one black, one white — we, like so many others, are very angry at the killing of young Trayvon Martin. We feel it is a national emergency that people use this tragedy to once and for all understand what racism comes from and how it can end. The answer is in the important philosophy and education Aesthetic Realism, founded by Eli Siegel. It explains that there are two desires in every person, regardless of the color of their skin. The first is our deepest desire — to like the world honestly, see meaning and value in things and people. The second is the desire for contempt, "the addition to self through the lessening of something else." Contempt is so ordinary, from making fun of a person who makes a mistake or thinking you're better than another because of the section of town you live in. Contempt is what makes for the great injustices of this world, from war to racism. **ALLAN MICHAEL AND MATTHEW D'AMICO, VIA E-MAIL**

"Carbon dioxide is necessary for all plant life to produce oxygen."

Is Obama destroying America as payback for his angry parents? When Obama ran for president, he lied to the people of coal-producing states concerning clean coal technology. Now he has the EPA do his bidding to shut down coal-burning power plants after he trashed the Keystone XL pipeline. But then again, Barack Hussein Obama II also lied when he debated Hillary Clinton, saying that she was for mandatory health insurance and he wasn't. When will the good people of America wake up are realized that we were duped? Carbon dioxide is necessary for all plant life to produce oxygen. Obama is either extremely stupid or intentionally trying to take America down as payback. **JOSEPH DUPONT, PHILADELPHIA**

What if we tried a national lottery?

RE: "LOTTERY MANIA COULD YIELD BETTER RESULTS": Did anyone ever think of, once a year, the U.S. states hold a lottery. Numbers could be picked on Christmas or New Year's or something like that. The money could go toward lowering the deficit. **MIKE DELFINO, VIA E-MAIL**

E-mail your letters: **letters@metro.us**

Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words.
Metro reserves the right to edit all letters.
Please include your name and contact information.

Horoscope

♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** If you take on too heavy a schedule, all it would do is cut down on your proficiency. Putting too much pressure on yourself could make you overwhelmed.

♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** Once more, you could get yourself involved socially with someone of whom you're not too fond. Try not to dwell too much on this person's shortcomings, or problems will result.

♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** It's going to be up to you to put a stop to an outside influence that could undermine the tranquility of your space. If you don't do anything about it, you'll have to live with it.

♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** Someone you know is spoiling for a fight. If you find yourself on a collision course with a very strongly opinionated person, walk away as fast as you can.

♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** Thoroughly check out an expensive, purportedly long-lasting article to see if it can live up to its claims, before putting your hard-earned money down. It may not be worth it.

♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** If both you and your special someone have short fuses, make sure you keep your mouth shut when out in public. If you don't, it could lead to something very embarrassing.

♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** Try to help someone who has come to your assistance in the past. Even if this person's problems are more complex than yours, don't compare the two.

♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** Be extremely careful about how you handle a friend who is already miffed for something you supposedly did in the past. Even if you weren't at fault, turn the other cheek.

♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** Enhance your chances for success by trying to see things through the eyes of your competitor. It could substantially increase your ability to get what you want.

♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** Unless you are very careful with whom you pick an argument, you could find yourself in a situation where you are completely overmatched. Be agreeable to all.

♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** There are strong signals telling you and your family to be extremely careful about handling your funds. You or another member could incur a debt that would be difficult to pay off.

♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** It's OK to go to someone for advice, if you believe he or she is bright enough to help. If the other party is clueless, however, he or she could make matters much worse.

BERNICE BEDE OSOL

Across
1 Light wood
6 Wooden horse saga
11 Coffee dispenser
14 Over
15 Danke, in Dijon
16 Recent (pref.)
17 British sport
18 Fund-raisers (2 wds.)
20 Sack
21 Travel around
23 Pretense
24 Whisper on stage
26 Jetted forth
28 Auto trim
30 __ nova
31 Punchbowl go-with
32 Facetious tribute
33 Sci-fi doctor
36 "Vogue" rival
37 Pre-empt (hyph.)
38 Trip around the sun
39 House buzzer
40 Fast-talks
41 Be of use
42 Adjusted a cello
43 Too compliantly
44 Grittier
47 Telegraph inventor
48 Archipelago dot
49 Nothing special (hyph.)
50 Puppy bite
53 "The Sheik"
56 Look radiant
58 Mamie's man
59 Grouchy Muppet
60 Scale unit
61 Coral formation
62 Exudes moisture
63 Aboveboard

Down
1 Cutting remark
2 Water, in Baja
3 As if reluctant
4 Close kin
5 Whenever
6 Permeate profoundly
7 Nonsense poet
8 Get on the nerves of
9 Crack pilot
10 Turn off
11 Pitch-black
12 "Walk the Line" Oscar winner __ Witherspoon
13 Pushed ahead
19 Distinctive air
22 Sonnet cousin
25 Only
26 Afternoon TV
27 Library sound
28 Music notation
29 Dining area
30 Gave the raspberry
32 Mars explorer
33 Diluting
34 Icy precip
35 Air France destination
37 Motion picture
38 Actor __ Montand
40 Right this minute (2 wds.)
41 Spray can
42 It has rings
43 Jan. and Feb.
44 Kind of duty
45 Port near Kyoto
46 Dumpster locale
47 Anchors
49 Purse closer
51 Ancient empire
52 Flake off
54 Mao __-tung
55 Finish the cupcakes
57 Color

1	2	3	4	5	■	6	7	8	9	10	■	11	12	13
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17					■	18					19			
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28	29					■	30					■	■	■
31					■	32					■	33	34	35
36				■	37					■	38			
39			■	40					■	41				
■	■	■	42					■	43					
44	45	46					■	47					■	■
48					■	■	49				■	50	51	52
53					54	55			■	56	57			
58			■	59					■	60				
61			■	62					■	63				

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		7	3		9	6		
	2	3	7					1
3				7	1		5	9
			8					
					6	2		4

SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

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7			9		3		5	
9					1	8		
	8			9			3	
		4	7					9
	1		8		9			3
			3					1
5		7		2	4	6		

SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

Solution to yesterday's crossword

C	L	I	M	B	■	Y	E	G	G	■	M	I	L	E
R	E	B	E	L	■	O	R	A	L	■	U	N	I	X
A	D	I	E	U	■	W	I	S	E	■	T	U	N	A
W	A	S	T	E	D	■	S	P	E	C	T	R	U	M
■	■	■	F	A	B	■	E	C	H	O	E	S	■	■
C	Y	C	L	O	N	E	■	L	O	N	■	■	■	■
R	E	L	A	X	■	E	A	T	U	P	■	C	A	N
T	W	A	S	■	S	C	R	U	B	■	C	O	T	E
S	S	W	■	R	E	H	A	B	■	S	A	N	E	R
■	■	■	A	A	A	■	■	B	R	O	W	N	E	D
■	M	A	N	I	L	A	■	Y	A	P	■	■	■	■
N	E	C	K	L	A	C	E	■	W	R	E	A	T	H
U	T	I	L	■	N	O	L	L	■	A	N	N	I	E
L	O	D	E	■	T	R	I	O	■	N	O	O	N	E
L	O	S	T	■	S	N	A	G	■	O	W	N	E	D

How to play Sudoku: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

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destinations

Splurge-worthy spa trips for 2012

Emerge from the long winter with a wellness-inspired pick-me-up. Check out these rejuvenating getaways:

La Quinta Resort & Club
Palm Desert, Calif.
Why go now: Like many of the Hollywood legends who visit, La Quinta, set 19 miles south of Palm Springs, has had a little nip and tuck. Ringed by the jagged Santa Rosa Mountains, the newly renovated 38-room, stucco-accented spa looks refreshed and modernized.
Best treatment: The cutting-edge anti-aging HydraFacial relies on LED light and a hi-tech machine to deliver plumping serums into the skin (30 or 90 min., $250 or $375).
What to do: Dine outdoors at Morgan's on a warm night and enjoy live jazz on the patio.

Canyon Ranch
Lenox, Mass.
Why go now: At this premier integrative health spa in the Berkshires, known for pampering and preventive medicine, the new medically informed Gait Analysis serves to strengthen tired feet, while Back in the Game helps reduce back pain.
Best treatment: The Detoxifying Organic Seaweed Wrap (80 min., $300), a full-body scrub, seaweed wrap and scalp/foot massage utilizes hand-harvested wild seaweed extracts and organic essential oils for silky-soft skin.
What to do: Plan your summer visit to coincide with Tanglewood, the renowned classical music festival held in Lenox.

Omni Mount Washington Resort
Bretton Woods, N.H.
Why go now: Fresh from a $20 million renovation, this historic grand dame, built in 1902, features a 25,000-square-foot luxury spa with 13 treatment rooms, a fitness studio and an outdoor whirlpool touting jaw-dropping views of the White Mountains.
Best treatment: The Herbal Body treatment (75 min., $175) incorporates a Moor Mud wrap, a massage and sugar body polish infused by fresh herbs from the spa garden.
What to do: Head to Bretton Woods, the largest ski area in New Hampshire, for a hike through hushed, wooded trails.

CONTRIBUTED BY Fodor's
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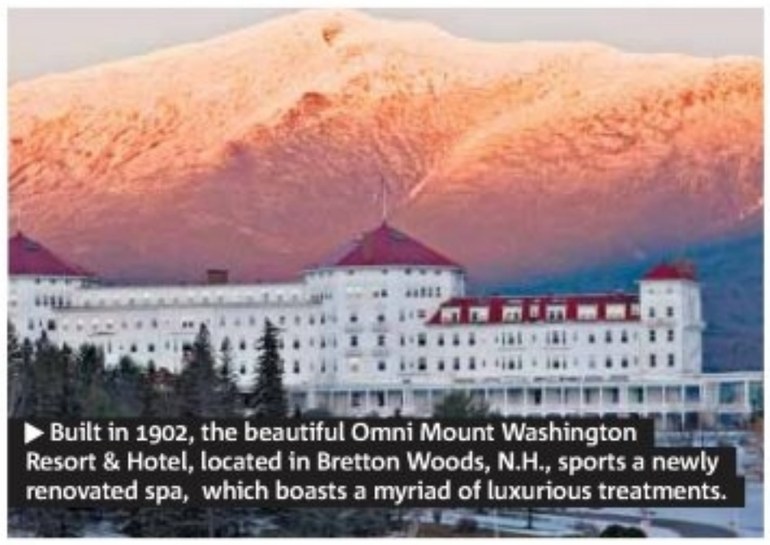
▶ Built in 1902, the beautiful Omni Mount Washington Resort & Hotel, located in Bretton Woods, N.H., sports a newly renovated spa, which boasts a myriad of luxurious treatments.

▶ The full-service, 25,000-square-foot spa and salon

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	7-Day Bermuda	7-Day Europe	7-Day Bahamas	9-Day Caribbean
NCL Norwegian Cruise Line — Receive up to $450 Onboard Credit plus FREE Upgrades on select sailings	Fr. $439* pp	Fr. $444* pp	Fr. $459* pp	Fr. $639* pp
	Ocean View Fr. $509* pp / Balcony Fr. $689* pp	Balcony Fr. $629* pp / Suite Fr. $874* pp	Ocean View Fr. $509* pp / Balcony Fr. $599* pp	Ocean View Fr. $729* / Balcony Fr. $959*
	7-Day Europe	7-Day Bermuda	7-Day Alaska	10-Day Caribbean
Royal Caribbean International — Receive FREE Pre-Paid Gratuities plus up to $100 Onboard Credit on select sailings	Fr. $444* pp	Fr. $444* pp	Fr. $494* pp	Fr. $819* pp
	Ocean View Fr. $644* pp / Balcony Fr. $739* pp	Ocean View Fr. $594* pp / Balcony Fr. $779* pp	Ocean View Fr. $594* pp / Balcony Fr. $839* pp	Ocean View Fr. $989* pp / Balcony Fr. $1289* pp
	7-Day Caribbean	7-Day Bermuda	10-Day Europe	11-Day Hawaii
Celebrity X Cruises — Receive FREE Pre-Paid Gratuities plus up to $100 Onboard Credit on select sailings	Fr. $499* pp	Fr. $639* pp	Fr. $794* pp	Fr. $944* pp
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	7-Day Alaska	7-Day Caribbean	7-Day Bermuda	10-Day Europe
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Opinion

ANGELO CATALDI

THE VOICE OF THE PHILLY SPORTS FAN

IT WAS FUN WHILE IT LASTED PHILS

The Phillies will not win the World Series in 2012. They will not win 100 games. The five-year run of division titles will end. And, despite the new expanded format, they will not even make the playoffs. Remember, you read it here first.

Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author, or any opinions expressed on its pages. Opposing viewpoints are welcome. Send submissions to letters@metro.us.

In my four-plus years of writing this column, I have never created a more painful paragraph than the one I just wrote. The exhilaration of this Phillies era has been unrivaled for me, as a fan and broadcaster. There have been so many magical moments, so many masterful performances, that it is hard to imagine the empty emotions that await us.

And yet the truth is impossible to deny, a truth that took root a few strides up the first-base line on the final play of the 2011 season. History will show that Ryan Howard's stumble to the ground meant more than the crushing end to our most promising season ever. It also marked the symbolic fall of our baseball team.

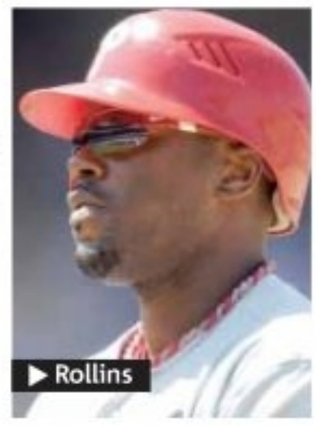
Quoted

The Phillies are too old, too fragile and too slow. ... The era is ending. The run is over.

What's wrong with the current Phillies? For the first time in years, it is much easier to list what's right. Roy Halladay, Cliff Lee and Cole Hamels are right. The new closer, Jonathan Papelbon, is right. Hunter Pence is right. And that — believe it or not — is the end of the list.

Manager Charlie Manuel is not in that group for one obvious reason. At 68, he has never managed a small-ball team. The notion that he will suddenly become a master strategist, stealing the precious runs needed for his star pitchers, is ridiculous. Manuel is great in the clubhouse. Unfortunately, the problems are on the field.

Jimmy Rollins is in decline at shortstop. Placido Polanco is brittle. Carlos Ruiz is not the player he was two years ago. Shane Victorino is mindless. The new guys, Ty Wigginton and Jim Thome, are backups for a reason.



▶ Rollins

And then, there are the two names that are painful to mention: Chase Utley and Ryan Howard. Will they play at all this season after serious injuries? If so, how well? Is there any chance that they will return to their stellar form of a few years ago? No, there isn't. No chance at all.

The 2012 Phillies are too old, too fragile and too slow. They don't work counts, they don't defend well and they are one key injury away from being a sub-.500 team. Remove any of the top three pitchers from the rotation for any time at all, and the Phillies become the fourth-best team in their own division.

Hey, I know you don't want to read any of this. I don't want to write it, believe me. But the era is ending. The run is over. The 2012 season is going to be one cold slap in the face for all of us. You read it here first.

*– **Angelo Cataldi** is the host of 94 WIP's Morning Show, which airs weekdays 5:30 a.m. to 10 a.m.*

Reid, Birds blinded by the light

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Peters

When the news filtered out that Pro Bowl tackle Jason Peters was gone for the season, the first question was: Who will protect Mike Vick? The second question was even more intriguing: Who will save Andy Reid?

Without his best lineman, Reid has far less hope of fulfilling the demands of owner Jeff Lurie for a 2012 Super Bowl run. Based on what had happened before the Peters' bombshell, maybe the coach doesn't need a big season. Maybe the Lurie edict was totally bogus.

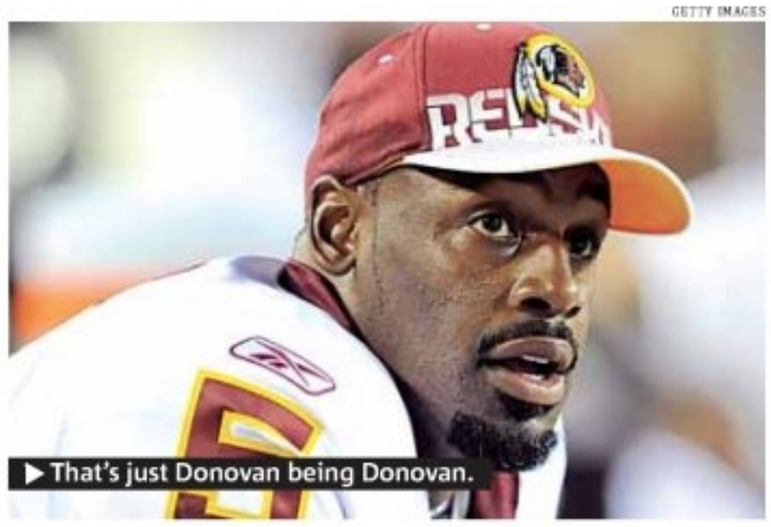
Reid fed this new perception himself when rumors circulated throughout the NFL owners meetings last week that the Eagles were poised to trade cornerback Asante Samuel to Tennessee for a third-round pick.

Samuel was far from perfect last season, but he still ranked second in the NFL in preventing his receiver from catching the ball.

Trading a proven cornerback for a third-round pick is not the act of a desperate coach. Certainly Reid must know his own abysmal track record with third-round picks. He also must be aware that dismissing a lost season by saying that he "goofed" with his Wide-9 defense is not exactly the kind of public honesty Lurie was seeking. "Goofed" is a word to describe wearing socks that don't match, not ruining a promising season.

The coach isn't acting like a man on the brink. The owner is no longer speaking publicly. The top lineman is gone. If nothing else, there is no better soap opera in sports than our Eagles.

GETTY IMAGES



▶ That's just Donovan being Donovan.

McNabb's other side

The biggest phony in sports revealed his new face in a laughable bid to win a TV job. This totally different Donovan McNabb answers questions with candor and bluster. This new, improved charlatan takes no prisoners and spares no feelings.

McNabb is still the same fraud he was with the Eagles. In his heyday, he was more likely to pull out an inappropriate air guitar than bleat out a word of truth, but this made-for-TV McNabb is no more believable than the bogus old one.

During a two-day audition last week on ESPN, McNabb ripped into his former coach, Mike Shanahan, said Robert Griffin III would fail in Washington and then portrayed himself as the most criticized quarterback in NFL history. Ha, ha, ha. I knew if we waited long enough, McNabb would actually say something funny.

The reality is that he received more praise in the national forum than more deserving quarterbacks. The breathless defense by his army of drones after the Rush Limbaugh incident spoke volumes.

Donovan McNabb is as phony as his new TV smile. He may have showed a different side of himself on ESPN, but not to the people who know him best. To us, he has always had two faces.

Idle thoughts from Cataldi ...

1 Follow the leader. Peter Laviolette's ledge-walking, fist-pumping challenge to Pittsburgh on Sunday provided visual proof of just how badly the Flyers coach wants to win. How is he going to find a way to transfer that adrenaline to his slow-starting, immature team? That's the big question.

2 No love for Doug. Can we finally end all of the talk about Doug Collins as NBA Coach of the Year? After that crushing loss to awful Washington on Friday night, he said he had no idea what was going on with his free-falling Sixers. Does that sound like someone who deserves a prize at the end of the season?

3 March monotony. Is the NCAA basketball tournament over yet? I've been avoiding all of the preening coaches and cloying announcers for a while now, and I'm not turning the TV back on until they're gone. Is anyone still dumb enough to believe this overhyped mess is the best sports event of the year?

3

Must-see TV

Jets could be reality stars

The wildly popular HBO reality football show, "Hard Knocks," may be reaching out to the NY Jets.

Owner Woody Johnson said the team and network have had informal discussions about returning to the show they starred in back in 2010.

The Jets would surely boost ratings with their constant locker room turmoil and the recent addition of Tim Tebow.

Which begs the question: Why not the Eagles? We know Andy Reid would never agree to it, but we can wish, right?

Miller gets call to Hall, no Cheeks

Sorry, Mo.

Former Sixers point guard Maurice Cheeks was left off the list of 2012 inductees into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. The 12-member class, highlighted by Reggie Miller, will be enshrined in September.

Villanova alum Hank Nichols also made the final cut. He officiated 10 Final Fours and six national championship games.

Cheeks, who ranks 10th all-time in assists, was informed that he didn't make it Friday night. Louisville coach Rick Pitino and Bernard King were also snubbed. METRO

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Special Offer for METRO Readers

Simmonds, Bryzgalov get NHL star treatment

Wayne Simmonds is starting to gain legend status in these parts.

After a weekend that saw him score a goal with his face, the Flyers wing came back the very next day and lit the lamp, and started a fight. Simmonds was playing with a visor to protect his face after receiving six stitches above his right eye and nose. Yesterday, he was named the First Star of the Week by the NHL.

"It's a great honor," said Simmonds, who has scored goals in four straight games. "Obviously I think that's the most painful goal that I'll ever score in my NHL career. I don't hope to do that again, but it was worth it."

"He's obviously a tough guy and he finds a way to get it in the net, even with his face," Claude Giroux said.

Simmonds has tallied a career-high 27 goals this season. His previous high had been 16 goals in 78 games with the L.A. Kings back in 2009-10.

Teammate Ilya Bryzgalov was also honored by the league, garnering First Star of the Month accolades. The Flyers goaltender has recorded four shutouts, the most in the NHL in March, while posting a 10-2-1 record with a 1.43 goals-against average. He became the first Flyer to allow two or fewer goals in 11 straight since Bernie Parent. METRO

ON TV TODAY

NY Rangers at Flyers, 7 p.m. (CSN)

Injury report

- **Danny Briere** is out indefinitely with a back injury, per GM Paul Holmgren. Briere sustained the injury Sunday when Joe Vitale checked him late in the third period.
- Defenseman **Nicklas Grossman** is out for 7-10 days due to a knee injury. Vitale also provided the fatal blow there after a knee collision.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Wayne Simmonds, shown here before taking a puck to the face, has scored a career-high 27 goals this season.

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VALID 4/3 OR 4/4/12 'TIL 1PM
LIMIT ONE PER CUSTOMER. CANNOT BE USED ON SPECIALS OR SUPER BUYS

Excludes: Everyday Values (EDV), specials, super buys, shoes for her, furniture, mattresses, floor coverings, rugs, electrics/electronics, cosmetics/fragrances, gift cards, jewelry trunk shows, previous purchases, special orders, selected licensed depts., special purchases, services, macys.com. Cannot be combined with any savings pass/coupon, extra discount or credit offer, except opening a new Macy's account. Dollar savings are allocated as discounts off each eligible item, as shown on receipt. When you return an item, you forfeit the savings allocated to that item. This coupon has no cash value & may not be redeemed for cash, used to purchase gift cards or applied as payment or credit to your account. Purchase must be $25 or more, exclusive of tax & delivery fees.

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BLOG

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REG. & ORIG. PRICES ARE OFFERING PRICES AND SAVINGS MAY NOT BE BASED ON ACTUAL SALES. SOME ORIG. PRICES NOT IN EFFECT DURING THE PAST 90 DAYS. ONE DAY SALE PRICES IN EFFECT 4/3 & 4/4/2012. *Intermediate price reductions may have been taken. ‡All carat weights (ct. t.w.) are approximate; variance may be .05 carat. **May contain rose-cut diamonds. Jewelry photos may be enlarged or enhanced to show detail. Fine jewelry at select stores; log on to macys.com for locations. Almost all gemstones have been treated to enhance their beauty and require special care, log on to macys.com/gemstones or ask your sales professional. Extra savings taken off already reduced prices, "special" prices reflect extra savings. Orig./Now and Special Purchase items will remain at advertised prices after event and are available while supplies last. Advertised merchandise may not be carried at your local Macy's and selection may vary by store. Luggage & electric items shown carry warranties; to see a manufacturer's warranty at no charge before purchasing, visit a store or write to: Macy's Warranty Dept., PO Box 1026 Maryland Heights, MO 63043, attn: Consumer Warranties. Prices and merchandise may differ at macys.com. ★ Enter the WebID in the search box at macys.com to order. N2030008

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